

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending in this application. Claims 15-19 are rejected, and claims 20-36 are allowed. Claims 15 and 16 are currently amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objects to the specification based on the title of the invention being inadequately descriptive. The title of the invention is currently amended to be MULTICAST WHEN FORWARDING INFORMATION IS UNKNOWN. Applicant submits that this adequately reflects the subject matter of the claims.

Claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In particular, the examiner asserts that claims 15-19 recite a computer program that lacks the “computer readable medium” needed to realize the computer program’s functionality. It follows that the office interprets the scope of “a port of a line card of the router” and the various logic recited in claim 15 as possibly being implemented in software. Having been accorded such a claim scope by the Office, claim 15 is currently amended to recite a “physical interface.” Support for this new limitation can be found in the specification at page 7, line 23 through page 9, line 15 which describes “physical interface 402” of Figure 4, among other things. A “physical interface” cannot be implemented in software alone. Therefore, claim 15 is not a computer program claim, but rather an apparatus claim. Claims 16-19 are dependent upon claim 15, and are also apparatus claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore requested.

Note that the current claim amendments are not made for the purpose of overcoming any prior art reference. As such, Applicant does not intend to exclude any subject matter from the claims. Rather, the current claim amendments merely clarify that the claims of the set based on claim 15 are apparatus claims.

This application is considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-4001 (X2338) so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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